

**MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING - TRAINING  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Community Design Studio – Nave  
7506 E. Indian School Road  
August 28, 2003  
5:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

Present: Cathy Johnson, Chairperson  
Nancy Dallett  
B.J. Gonzales  
Kathy Howard  
Doug Sydnor  
Janet Wilson  
Ed Wimmer

Tempe: Bob Gasser, Chair  
Joe Nucci, HPO  
Dave Scheatzle  
Santos C. Vega  
Joseph Ewan  
Sallie Seibert  
Ann Patterson  
Stu Siefer  
Karl Kagmen  
Mike Dorkin

Also Present: Jo Ann Handley

Mesa: Vic Linoff, Chair  
Greg Marek, Redevelopment Director  
Vince Anderson

Phoenix: Jeremy Wells

Staff: Bob Cafarella  
Don Meserve  
Debbie Abele, HPO  
Liz Wilson

**INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

Cathy Johnson, Chairperson welcomed visitors from other communities to the training session on evaluating significance. Representatives were present from the Tempe Historic Preservation Commission, Mesa Historic Preservation Committee, and Phoenix Historic Preservation Commission. Chairperson Johnson also welcomed Kathy Howard to her first commission meeting after being appointed by City Council on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

## TRAINING SESSION

Chairperson Johnson introduced Debbie Abele, HPO for Scottsdale, who conducted the training to look at the process used to evaluate significance and to document significance. The training covered how to decide what is significant, the process used in meetings and discussions, and examples of postwar subdivisions. She described the training materials distributed to all attendees and noted that National Register Bulletins can be downloaded from the Internet if complete bulletins are desired.

Ms. Abele described the history of historic preservation, the formation of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1949 and the development of written criteria for determining significance. The criteria used today were the result of decades of discussion. Ms. Abele noted that local commissioners are the local experts and advocates for historic preservation and that there are materials out there that can be shared between communities so we can all better understand ranch housing and other historic preservation topics.

Ms. Abele described how to evaluate a property within its historic context or theme, and gave examples of Arizona contexts. Ms. Abele described five categories of resources, including buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts. The training materials focus on the district category.

The next topic Ms. Abele reviewed is how to identify the type of significance using four criteria for evaluation: A. Event, B. Person, C. Design/Construction, and D. Information Potential. The association should be a strong tie and not a weak link for significance. She provided examples of using each of the four criteria. Ms. Abele explained how the properties in a district might not be individually important, but that the collection of properties may be the best example of a California Ranch style neighborhood, or have other importance as a whole.

Ms. Abele introduced Liz Wilson. Ms. Wilson did a powerpoint presentation on ranch housing in the Valley called Introduction to Postwar Modern Housing. The pictures illustrated a classification system for the architectural styles of housing including ranch styles, cottage styles, progressive styles, character ranch styles, tri-level styles, and post ranch styles for postwar housing.

Following Ms. Wilson's powerpoint presentation, Ms. Abele summarized the first few topics and proceeded to discuss how judgments are made on integrity. The seven qualities of integrity for consideration are design, materials, location, setting, workmanship, feeling and association. At the end of the evaluation of significance and integrity, a report needs to be written on what is significant about a property or district and how it is able to convey its association to a context.

At the conclusion of the training, Chairperson Johnson opened the meeting for questions and discussion. Some of the questions and answers and other comments are summarized below.

Ms. Abele was asked to describe what is a context. She responded that a context is a written narrative putting into a report a period of time, a location, related people, and property types associated with the theme. It should describe how rare or common the physical remains are that are associated with the specific theme.

Ms. Abele was asked what typology (classification system) has been done for subdivisions. Ms. Abele said that survey data on postwar neighborhoods is becoming available for East Valley cities and is needed for Phoenix to get an understanding of the numbers of homes and subdivisions. The powerpoint described the proposed architectural styles for ranch houses and other types of design in the Valley. Ms. Abele noted that it would be valuable to have a Valley context on subdivisions from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). It was noted that contexts could also relate jobs and housing, such as the impact of a major employer like Motorola on residential development.

Several comments were made concerning an East Valley Coalition for historic preservation and the need to share experiences on residential districts and other topic of common interest. Chairperson Johnson noted that there would be a joint meeting of Scottsdale, Tempe and Mesa on September 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss a coalition and sharing what each community is doing on historic preservation.

Joe Nucci, HPO for Tempe noted that Tempe has a written context that can now be used to pursue residential districts.

The group discussed the political aspects of designating neighborhoods as districts.

Ms. Abele encouraged participants to use what they learned today to go through a process that will result in choices on significance that can be defended, and that will enable them to describe how the selections were made using a deliberate and recognized process.

The training session adjourned about 7:00 p.m. and most of the visitors from other communities left.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

The Historic Preservation Commission reconvened for a regular business meeting after the training session concluded about 7:00 p.m. All commissioners were present. Also present were Debbie Abele and Don Meserve, staff and Jo Ann Handley and Davida Shiffman, visitors.

Chairperson Johnson asked if there were any corrections to the June 12, 2003 minutes. Commissioner Wilson noted that on Page 2 under Education Outreach Committee, the last sentence should be changed from "the next issue" to "an issue". Chairperson Johnson stated that the minutes of June 12, 2003 stood approved as amended.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/COMMENTS**

### **Historic Register Committee**

Commissioner Gonzales, Committee co-chair, stated the next Historic Register Committee meeting will be held next Wednesday evening, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:15 p.m. to review the results of the integrity ratings for 1950s neighborhoods.

### **Education Outreach Committee**

Commissioner Wilson stated that the Education Outreach Committee has not met over the summer and that she has developed a list of ideas for the first Friends newsletter. She proposed including brief bio information on the two new commissioners. The next meeting will be on Wednesday

September 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. on the first floor of One Civic Center, unless staff reserves another room. The agenda will be prepared and distributed early next week.

### **HPO/Staff Report**

Debbie Abele, HPO had no report but will give a report on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Don Meserve reported that he has written a draft Guide to Mitigation Plans and provided the Chairperson with a copy for her review. The guide will be discussed at a future meeting.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Chairperson Johnson reported that the conference the end of June, A Sense of Place, was well attended. The session she did with others on archaeology was better attended than she expected and the session Ms. Abele did with others was also full. Several representatives from Scottsdale's historic preservation program attended the conference, including Chairperson Johnson, Commissioner Sydnor, Commissioner Dallett, Ms. Howard, HPO Debbie Abele, and Liz Wilson.

Commissioner Wilson requested a calendar for meetings. Ms. Abele said a calendar till the end of the year will be available on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Gonzales thanked everyone who filled out the integrity assessment forms for the 35 neighborhoods from the 1950s, on their own time over the summer.

Items were proposed for the September 11<sup>th</sup> agenda including a review of progress on the 2003 work program, an update of downtown commercial properties for potential consideration, an update on the Hotel Valley Ho, and comments from the Chair on what needs to be pursued.

Commissioner Sydnor suggested that commissioners encourage people to apply for the two openings on the commission this October.

Commissioner Dallett asked what training sessions are planned. Ms. Abele responded that training for the year is usually discussed at the annual retreat in January. Ms. Dallett requested a presentation from Catherine Spellman, ASU, on Every House Changes – Ideas for Residential Neighborhoods Summary. Mr. Meserve will make copies of the summary for the commission and Ms. Abele can contact Ms. Spellman.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

Don Meserve, Preservation Planner